

**Richard Bland to George Washington, June 7, 1757,
19th-century transcription by William B. Sprague,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM RICHARD BLAND, ESQ.¹

WILLIAMSBURGH June 7. 1757

DEAR SIR

I have the pleasure of receiving your letter by Mr Gist; and I assure you I should look upon it as a singular felicity if I could contribute towards perfecting any scheme for the advantage of my country: My endeavours, so far as my influence will reach shall never be wanting. I have the mortification of finding the majority from Home against the most vigorous measures for effectually putting a stop to the French attempts upon our frontiers: But tho' numbers carried it against my opinion I am not yet convinced that an attack upon Fort Du Quesne or a lodgment near that place, with a sufficient force so as to keep them in perpetual alarm is impracticable. This is my favorite scheme; and I should be very glad to hear of its having your approbation.

We have had a dispute with the Council who flung out our first bill of supply, by an equal division of 5 on each side; upon the question being put for a third reading. This strange conduct under our present situation gave our house great resentment. They voted a severe resolve against the Council, & immediately ordered the same bill under a different title to be brot' in which was passed in two days, & sent again to the Council who gave

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their concurrence to it upon more mature consideration, so that you are to have this year 1272 men including non commissioned officers to compose your Regiment; and I do not at all doubt but you will do every thing in your power for the advantage of your Country that can be done by so small a force; & I most heartily wish you success in all your undertakings.

Another Bill has passed our House for laying out 5000£ in a proper cargo of goods to carry on a trade with the Indians for the public benefit under the direction of Col Peter & Wm. Randolph, Mr. Cary, Mr. Walker, & myself. This bill is now before the Council. If it passes into a law, we shall I believe engage with Mr. Gist as Factor, to carry it on: Your recommendation of him will have all proper weight with me & I am persuaded with the other Trustees or Directors.

As I have some thots' of writing an account of our transactions which I desire to communicate to public view in order to wipe off all reflections from my country and the several persons concerned in the conduct of our military enterprizes so far as they can be Justified, I shall take it as a particular mark of friendship if at your leisure hours, if you have any, you would send me the heads of such things relative to the french invasion with the dates when they happened as you judge most interesting & proper for such a Work. I will speak the truth with boldness & I hope with approbation from every honest and good man, amongst whom I assure you without flattery I place you in the first rank.²

I am Dr. Sir, Yr most humble Servt. RICHARD BLAND.

If I have the pleasure of hearing from you please to direct to me at Jordans in Prince Geo. County.³

1 "Colonel Richard Bland of Jordans."

2 Cf. Washington to Dr. Belknap, Ford's Writings of Washington, vol. xiv. p.22.

3 This print is from the copy deposited in place of the original letter which the editor supposes to be of the number given away after Washington's death.